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Mr. ABDUL HAMID KHAN :—"May I know the names of the persons who formed that deputation?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—"The names of the persons that waited on His Excellency are not kept in the Government Office. I saw their names in the 'Madras Mail'."

Mr. ABDUL HAMID KHAN :—"Is the hon. the Law Member aware that that deputation was representative of all sections of opinion and of all classes of people not only from the City but from all parts of the Presidency?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—"I am not aware."

Qualifications of Mr. Fasi-ud-din to discharge the functions of the Kazi of Madras.

*483 Q.—Mr. ABDUL HAMID KHAN: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) what the functions of the Kazi are;

(*b*) whether the Government will be pleased to place on the table copy of G.O. No. 331, Political, dated 24th May 1899;

(*c*) whether it is a fact that it is a function of the Kazi to furnish opinion to the Government and public relating to Muslim Law and custom; and

(*d*) whether the Government have considered whether Mr. Fasi-ud-din is competent to give authoritative opinion or fatwas to the Government and Muslim public as contemplated in G.O. No. 331, Political, dated 24th May 1899?

A.—(*a*) & (*c*) So far as Government are concerned, the functions of a Kazi are contained in the Preamble to the Kazis Act, XII of 1880.

(*b*) A copy of the order [a] of Government is placed on the table of the House.

(*d*) The Government are not called upon to consider whether a person to be appointed Kazi should be competent to give authoritative opinions or fatwas as stated by the hon. Member. The main test they have to apply with reference to section 2 of the Act is whether the person proposed for appointment is acceptable to the principal Muhammadan residents of the local area concerned.

Mr. ABDUL HAMID KHAN :—"In clause (*d*) of the answer to this question the Government say that they are not called upon to consider whether a person to be appointed Kazi should be competent to give authoritative opinions or fatwas as stated by the hon. Member. May I know, Sir, whether the Government is so ignorant of the fact that a Kazi who is appointed has to give fatwas affecting the religion and the other fundamental things of the Muslim community?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—"The sole guidance of the Government in this matter is the Preamble to the Kazis Act."

[a] Printed as Appendix III on page 343 infra.

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Mr. BASHEER AHMAD SAYEED :—"May I know whether the Government is not aware that the courts especially the City Civil Court and also a congregation of the public have condemned the man that has been appointed by the hon. the Law Member at the instance of the hon. the Home Member?"

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"The hon. Member need not repeat the words 'at the instance of the hon. the Home Member.' I rule them out of order."

Mr. BASHEER AHMAD SAYEED :—"Then may I ask, Sir, whether the nominee appointed by the Government is a condemned man, both by the Muslim congregation and also condemned by the passing of severe strictures by the City Civil Court as to his character and status?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—"The Government are not aware."

Mr. ABDUL HAMID KHAN :—"May I know whether the hon. the Law Member will take the trouble, at least now, to rectify the mistake, by knowing what sort of man they have appointed?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—"There is no need to rectify, because the Government do not think that they have done a wrong thing."

Mr. ABDUL HAMID KHAN :—"Will the Government make any such enquiry on the allegations that have been made?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—"No, Sir."

Mr. ABDUL HAMID KHAN :—"Since these allegations have been made, will not the Governmont think it necessary to revise its views?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—"These are baseless allegations; the Government will not make enquiries."

Panchayat Courts

Election rules under the Village Courts Act.

*484 Q.—Mr. A. B. SHETTY: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government have received any complaints to the effect that the election rules made under the Village Courts Act give an advantage to the candidates belonging to the village where the election is held, since the adult males resident in that place usually come in larger numbers to the polling station than people from other villages belonging to the same group;

(b) whether it is a fact that members of the panchayat court are in some cases all elected from only one of the villages, constituting the group for which the said court has been established; and

(c) whether the Government have at any time considered the desirability of modifying the rules so that all the villages constituting the group may have equal facilities in electing their representatives?

A.—(a) No.

(b) The Government have no information.

(c) No.